



## **State Revolving Fund Loan Programs**

### **Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source**

#### **PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**TOWN OF SOUTH WHITLEY**  
**Replace Final Clarifier Equipment Mechanisms and**  
**Purchase Laboratory and Safety Equipment**  
**Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum #1**  
**SRF # WW11 16 92 01**

**Date: January 16, 2013**

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in South Whitley's Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum #1 submitted to the SRF on December 26, 2012, will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

*How were environmental issues considered?*

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

*Why is additional environmental review not required?*

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

*How do I submit comments?*

Comments can be submitted to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager  
SRF Programs  
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

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## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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### I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Replace Final Clarifier Equipment Mechanisms and Purchase Laboratory and Safety Equipment**  
Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum #1  
Town of South Whitley  
118 E. Front Street  
South Whitley, IN 46787

SRF Project Number: WW11 16 92 01

Authorized Representative: Mr. John Dunn, Town Council President

### II. PROJECT LOCATION

South Whitley is located in Whitley County. The replacement of the final clarifier mechanisms and the storage of the new laboratory and safety equipment will occur at the wastewater treatment plant, which is located in Cleveland Township in the South Whitley West USGS topographic quadrangle, T30N, R8E, Section 4 (see Figure 1).

### III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Final Clarifiers: The town's two final clarifier drive mechanisms are deteriorating and have reached the end of their useful life. The "No Action" alternative was rejected since the drives would continue to deteriorate and inevitably fail, causing potential violations to the town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The selected alternative is to replace the drive mechanism in each of the final clarifiers.

Laboratory Equipment: Several laboratory equipment items have exceeded their useful service life and need to be replaced. The "No Action" alternative was rejected since the laboratory equipment will eventually fail, potentially causing the town to violate its NPDES permit. The selected alternative is purchasing a bench stop spectrophotometer and related supplies, an incubator, and a portable dissolved oxygen meter.

Safety Equipment: The town's wastewater staff needs several safety equipment items to conduct maintenance in the sewer system. These items will primarily be used by staff when entering a confined space, such as a manhole. The "No Action" alternative was rejected since staff cannot perform maintenance activities in a safe manner, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The selected alternative is purchasing a personnel winch and tripod, personnel work seat with climbing belt, gasoline powered ventilation blower, ventilation hose with storage bag, and manhole pass-thru ventilation hose assembly.

#### **IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST AND FUNDING**

The estimated cost for these items is \$136,022. The town will use part of the unspent funds in its State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan that closed on December 14, 2011, to pay for these items.

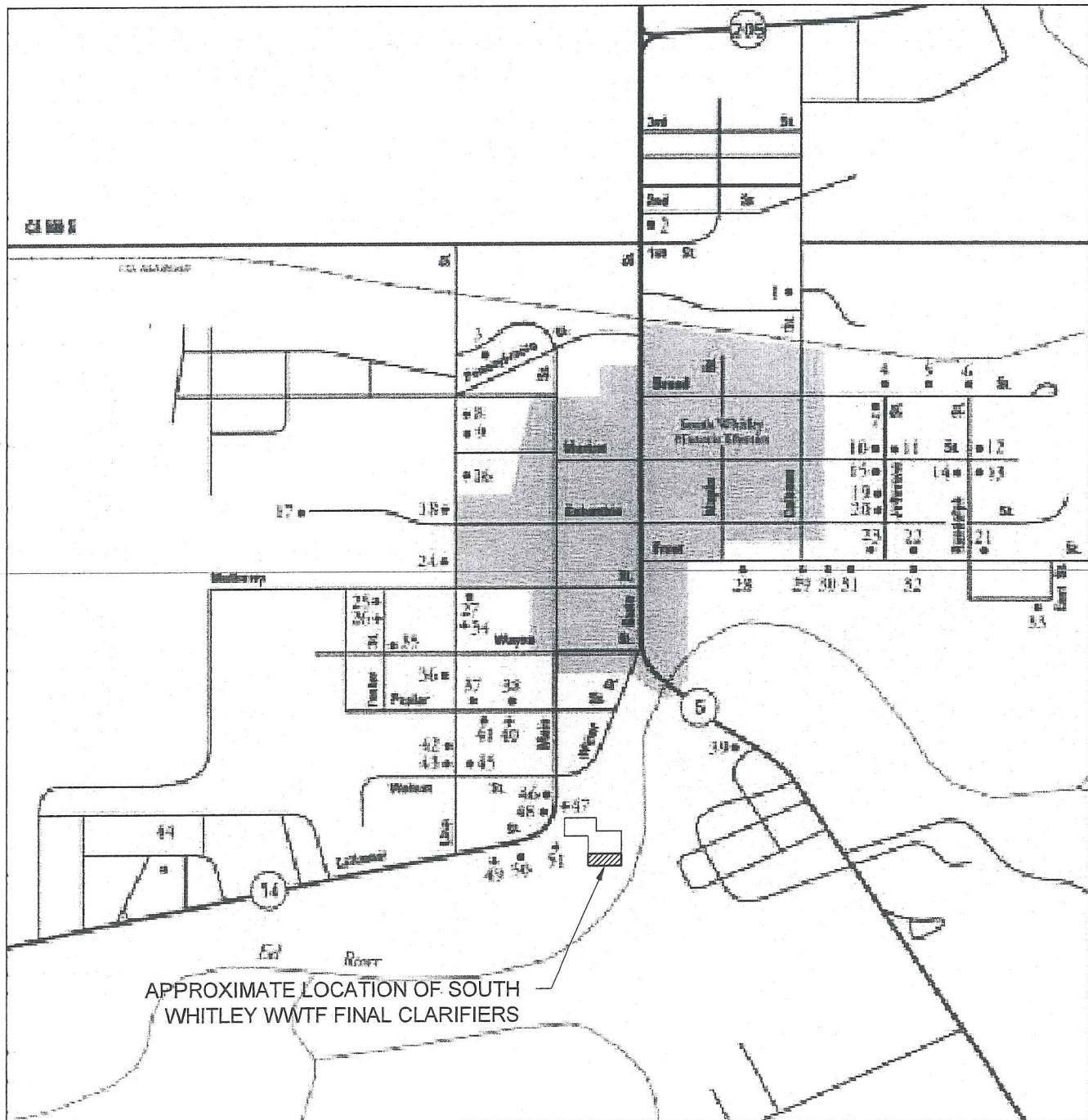
#### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES**

The projects will not affect natural resources. Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's funding pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected".

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A public notice was placed in the South Whitley Tribune-News on January 2, 2013, describing the proposed project. The town did not receive any comments.





SOURCE: WHITLEY COUNTY INTERIM REPORT - MAY 2002



**SOUTH WHITLEY**  
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

**FIGURE 1: from Whitley County Interim Report  
Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory**